Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 17029 071702Z ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, EEC, NL
SUBJECT: THE NETHERLANDS AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
ELECTIONS

REF: THE HAGUE 4906

1. IN RESPONSE TO PARA 9 REFTEL, WE UNDERSTAND THAT AN EC COMMISSION (OR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT STAFF) OFFICIAL MAY BECOME A CANDIDATE FOR THE DIRECTLY ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT(EP) WITHOUT RESIGNING HIS POSITION.
WHILE THE COMMISSION'S STAFF REGULATIONS STATE THAT AN "OFFICIAL WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTIVE PUBLIC OFFICE SHALL APPLY FOR LEAVE ON PERSONAL GROUNDS FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING THREE MONTHS", IN PRACTICAL TERMS, ACCORDING EP STAFF SOURCE, THIS MEANS THAT A COMMISSION STAFF OFFICIAL SEEKING ELECTIVE OFFICE CAN REMAIN IN HIS PRESENT JOB UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HE WISHES TO ACTIVELY CAMPAIGN OR IS ACTUALLY ELECTED(ON THE ASSUMPTION HE WILL NOT HIT THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL). IF ELECTED TO THE EP AND WISHING TO RETURN TO THE COMMISSION AT THE END OF HIS TERM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 17029 071702Z

OF PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE, A COMMISSION OFFICIAL CAN, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 15 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS, NEGOTIATE AN EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY FOR THE PERIOD HE WILL BE IN THE EP.

2. EP STAFF SOURCE POINTED OUT THERE IS AMPLE PRECEDENT FOR THIS PROCEDURE, WHICH HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY

USED FOR COMMISSION CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC OFFICE. SOURCE FURTHER NOTED THAT NONE OF THE NINE MEMBER STATES HAS ENACTED ELECTORAL LAWS FOR THE EP ELECTIONS COUNTERMANDING THE ABOVE PROCEDURE FOR COMMISSION OFFICIALS. MCCARTHY

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